

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8240

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, KE, TZ

SUBJECT: KENYAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS READ EAC OBITUARY

1. NAIROBI PRESS QUOTED REMARKS BY BOTH ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO AND PERMSEC (OFFICE OF PRESIDENT) GEOFFREY KARIITHI TO EFFECT THAT EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WILL BE DEAD INSTITUTION AS OF JULY 1 FOR LACK OF FY 78 FUNDING. DAILY NATIONA QUOTED KARIITHI'S EPITAPH: QUOTE HOW CAN YOU RUN A COMMUNITY WIHTOUT MONEY? THERE IS NO MONEY AND NO POLITICAL GOODWILL. UNQUOTE.

2. KARIITHI REPORTEDLY RECALLED ALL KENYANS WORKING IN ARUSHA, WHILE KENYAN MINISTER OF EAC, REOBERT OUKO, HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION. LESSER FUNCTIONARIES ARE ALLEGEDLY BEING HARRASSED BY TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE ARUSHA. PRESS REPORTED THAT SPECIAL PASSES WHICH ENABLED KENYAN EAC EMPLOYEES TO CROSS OTHERWISE CLOSED LAND BORDER HAVE BEEN REVOKED.

3. KARIITHI TOLD DIALY NATION THAT PLEA BY COMMUNITY MINISTRY WILBERT CHAGULA AND ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL PAUL SEBALU TO GOK FOR INTERIM FINANCING HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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REJECTED. KARIITHI STATED SUCH A REQUEST CAN ONLY BE DISCUSSED AT QUOTE POLITICAL LEVEL UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: IN MEETING WITH PERMSEC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NICHOLAS NG'AN'A ON OTHER SUBJECTS, DCM DISCUSSED FATE OF EAC. NG'ANG'A SAID INDIVIDUAL PARTNER STATES HAD MADE NO BUDGETARY PROVISION FOR TURNING

OVER CUSTOMS AND EXCISE REVENUES TO COMMUNITY HEADQUARTERS TO SUPPORT GENERAL FUNDS SERVICES THRU UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR. BESIDES FORMALLY COMMITTING SUCH REVENUE TO EAC ACCOUNT, RESPECTIVE MINISTERS OF FINANCE MUST MEET TO APPROVE COMMUNITY EXPENDITURES. THIS SESSION HAS BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

5. ON QUESTION OF CONTINUING POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, NG'ANG'A SAID HE HAD PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICES IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS TWO MONTHS AGO BUT TANGOV TOTALLY UNRECEPTIVE TO IDEA. NG'ANG'A EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT, DESPITE DIFFERING IDEOLOGIES, TANZANIA COULD NOT ENJOY SMOOTH RELATIONS IN ROUTINE BILATERAL MATTERS.

6. NG' ANG'A REPEATED INFO HE HAD RECEIVED FROM BUSINESSMEN RETURNING FROM TANZANIA TO EFFECT THAT NYERERE ADDED KENYA TO TRADE BAN CURRENTLY IMPOSED ON SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

7. GOK CLEARLY UNWILLING TO COOPERATE IN LAST-MINUTE REVIVAL OF COMMUNITY. IN FACT, NJONJO QUOTED BY DAILY NATION AS PROMISING KENYAN EX-EMPLOYEES THAT THEY WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO DOMESTIC CIVIL SERVICE. QUESTION NOW SEEMS IF AND WHEN PARTNERS CAN AGREE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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